

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: Hiss Methodist Church Inventory Number: BA- 865
 Address: 8700 Harford Road (MD 147) Historic district: yes ☒ no
 City: Parkville Zip Code: 21234 County: Baltimore City
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Towson
 Property Owner: Trustees of the Hiss Methodist Episcopal Church Tax Account ID Number: 0908550534
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 1177 Tax Map Number: 71
 Project: MD-147 Parkville Streetscape Project Agency: SHA
 Agency Prepared By: EHT Traceries, Inc.
 Preparer's Name: Laura Trieschmann Date Prepared: 4/15/2006
 Documentation is presented in: _____
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
 Name of the District/Property: _____
 Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes
 Site visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Although the earliest visible cornerstone dates to 1894, prior documentation on the Hiss Methodist Chapel indicates that the structure dates as early as 1842. Historic atlases confirm the mid-19th century existence of the small church, which is representative of vernacular stone buildings constructed throughout Baltimore County in the mid-1800s. This stretch of Harford Road was already developing at a fast pace by 1850, and Lavender Hill Post Office, in which the Hiss Chapel was erected, was a thriving community. Both the 1850 and 1877 atlases reveal that a school was historically associated with the Hiss congregation. In 1877, the parcel of land surrounding the chapel and school was owned by the sisters of William Hiss. Over the last seventy years, the Hiss Methodist Chapel has undergone significant alterations that have concealed the original structure. It is now only visible at the back of the 20th-century church complex.

The primary resource on this property has been altered over the 20th century by three major additions to the southeast. An historic cornerstone, which has been relocated to the 1960 addition, reads, "Hiss Methodist Episcopal Church, September 12, 1894." The remaining portion of this one-story-high, two-bay-wide church exhibits coursed rubble stone construction. The northwest elevation is pierced by two 12/12 windows with aluminum surrounds and sills and splayed stone lintels. The southwest elevation is also pierced by two 12/12 windows with aluminum sills and surrounds and plain stone lintels. Evidence in the masonry walls suggests that all four windows have shortened from their original proportions. The roof is front gabled with slate tiles. The first large

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended ☒
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

[Signature]
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/11/06
 Date

[Signature]
 Reviewer, National Register Program

7/11/06
 Date

addition to the church is a two-story-high side gable school built in 1937. Next, flanking the school to the southwest is a large front gable addition built in 1953 with a spire. Flanking the school to the northeast is a front gable educational building constructed in 1960. These three additions together create a U-shaped building that dwarfs the original building which is no longer visible from the street. The new building is accessible from Harford Road via a circular driveway in the front.

Located directly behind the original church is a small cemetery. Since the cemetery was inaccessible, the survey was completed through a chain-link fence. The approximately 200 headstones are laid out in groupings with mostly upright marble markers facing northeast. The earliest headstone visible was for Oliver German, 1849.

Although associated with the rapid population growth and suburbanization trend in Parkville, Baltimore County, in the decades following the expansion of the streetcar line in 1918, and then following World War II, the Hiss Methodist church is not the best or earliest illustration of this growth and therefore does not qualify for eligibility under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, or nation. Therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion B. The church, illustrating the typical mid-20th-century Colonial Revival style embraced by churches, has been significantly altered over the 20th century by three major additions to the southeast. Thus, the original 1842 church on the property is no longer discernible. Therefore, Hiss Methodist Church does not qualify for eligibility under Criterion C. The property was not evaluated under Criterion D. In addition, the church and the cemetery were evaluated under Criteria Consideration A (Religious Properties) and Criteria Consideration D (Cemeteries). As typical example of a mid-20th-century Colonial Revival-style church, the Hiss Methodist Church is not exemplary for its architectural or artistic distinction, nor does it possess exceptional historical importance because it was associated with an important non-religious event or significant religious event. The church currently serves as a religious structure, not as an investment property. The Hiss Methodist Church Cemetery does not possess the markers of significant persons, exhibit distinctive design features, nor is it associated with any noteworthy historic events. Therefore, the Hiss Methodist Church is not eligible under Criteria Consideration A and the Hiss Methodist Church Cemetery is not eligible under Criteria Consideration D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA- 865

Hiss Methodist Chapel

8700 Harford Road

Baltimore, Baltimore County

1842

Private

Although the earliest visible cornerstone dates to 1894, prior documentation on the Hiss Methodist Chapel indicates that the structure dates as early as 1842. Historic atlases confirm the mid-19th century existence of the small church, which is representative of vernacular stone buildings constructed throughout Baltimore County in the mid-1800s. This stretch of Harford Road was already developing at a fast pace by 1850, and Lavender Hill Post Office, in which the Hiss Chapel was erected, was a thriving community. Both the 1850 and 1877 atlases reveal that a school was historically associated with the Hiss congregation. In 1877, the parcel of land surrounding the chapel and school was owned by the sisters of William Hiss. Over the last seventy years, the Hiss Methodist Chapel has undergone significant alterations that have concealed the original structure. It is now only visible at the back of the 20th century church complex.

The primary resource on this property has been altered over the 20th century by three major additions to the southeast. An historic cornerstone, which has been relocated to the 1960 addition, reads, "Hiss Methodist Episcopal Church, September 12, 1894." The remaining portion of this one-story-high, two-bay-wide church exhibits coursed rubble stone construction. The northwest elevation is pierced by two 12/12 windows with aluminum surrounds and sills and splayed stone lintels. The southwest elevation is also pierced by two 12/12 windows with aluminum sills and surrounds and plain stone lintels. Evidence in the masonry walls suggests that all four windows have shortened from their original proportions. The roof is front gabled with slate tiles. The first large addition to the church is a two-story-high side gable school built in 1937. Next, flanking the school to the southwest is a large front gable addition built in 1953 with a spire. Flanking the school to the northeast is a front gable educational building constructed in 1960. These three additions together create a U-shaped building that dwarfs the original building which is no longer visible from the street. The new building is accessible from Harford Road via a circular driveway in the front. Located directly behind the original church is a small cemetery. Since the cemetery was inaccessible, the survey was completed through a chain-link fence. The approximately 200 headstones are laid out in groupings with mostly upright marble markers facing northeast. The earliest headstone visible was for Oliver German, 1849.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 865

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Hiss Methodist Chapel

other

2. Location

street and number 8700 Harford Road not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of the Hiss Methodist Episcopal Church

street and number 8700 Harford Road telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21234

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber N/A folio N/A

city, town Towson tax map 71 tax parcel 1177 tax ID number 0908550534

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 865

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The primary resource on this property has been altered over the 20th century by three major additions to the southeast. An historic cornerstone, which has been relocated to the 1960 addition, reads, "Hiss Methodist Episcopal Church, September 12, 1894." The remaining portion of this one-story-high, two-bay-wide church exhibits coursed rubble stone construction. The northwest elevation is pierced by two 12/12 windows with aluminum surrounds and sills and splayed stone lintels. The southwest elevation is also pierced by two 12/12 windows with aluminum sills and surrounds and plain stone lintels. Evidence in the masonry walls suggests that all four windows have shortened from their original proportions. The roof is front gabled with slate tiles. The first large addition to the church is a two-story-high side gable school built in 1937. Next, flanking the school to the southwest is a large front gable addition built in 1953 with a spire. Flanking the school to the northeast is a front gable educational building constructed in 1960. These three additions together create a U-shaped building that dwarfs the original building which is no longer visible from the street. The new building is accessible from Harford Road via a circular driveway in the front.

Located directly behind the original church is a small cemetery. Since the cemetery was inaccessible, the survey was completed through a chain-link fence. The approximately 200 headstones are laid out in groupings with mostly upright marble markers facing northeast. The earliest headstone visible was for Oliver German, 1849.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1.865

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1842-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1842, 1894, 1937, 1953, 1960

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Although the earliest visible cornerstone dates to 1894, prior documentation on the Hiss Methodist Chapel indicates that the structure dates as early as 1842. Historic atlases confirm the mid-19th century existence of the small church, which is representative of vernacular stone buildings constructed throughout Baltimore County in the mid-1800s. This stretch of Harford Road was already developing at a fast pace by 1850, and Lavender Hill Post Office, in which the Hiss Chapel was erected, was a thriving community. Both the 1850 and 1877 atlases reveal that a school was historically associated with the Hiss congregation.¹ In 1877, the parcel of land surrounding the chapel and school was owned by the sisters of William Hiss.² Over the last seventy years, the Hiss Methodist Chapel has undergone significant alterations that have concealed the original structure. It is now only visible at the back of the 20th century church complex.

Vernacular buildings tend to have little to no stylistic detailing and are typically constructed by local builders with locally available tools and materials. Vernacular architecture accounts for the majority of the built environment and reflects the traditions of society, rather than the whims of the architect.³ Throughout Baltimore County, there are a number of vernacular stone houses from this period. Stone was readily available in the county, with both marble and granite quarries located throughout the region. Commonly, these random rubble stone dwellings are two stories in height, single-pile with side gable roofs. This continuity of form is a result of folk architecture and the reliance on constructing forms that had been built by the previous generation.

¹ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

² Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

³ Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, editors, *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986), pp. xv-xvi.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 1865

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1842, the Hiss Methodist Chapel has been associated with the acreage at 8700 Harford Road in the Ninth District of Baltimore County.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

CEMETARY

N ↗

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
BA- 865
HISS METHODIST
CHAPEL
8700 HARFORD RD
BALTIMORE, MD
BALTIMORE COUNTY
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

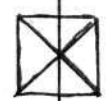
PARKING
LOT

CHAPEL

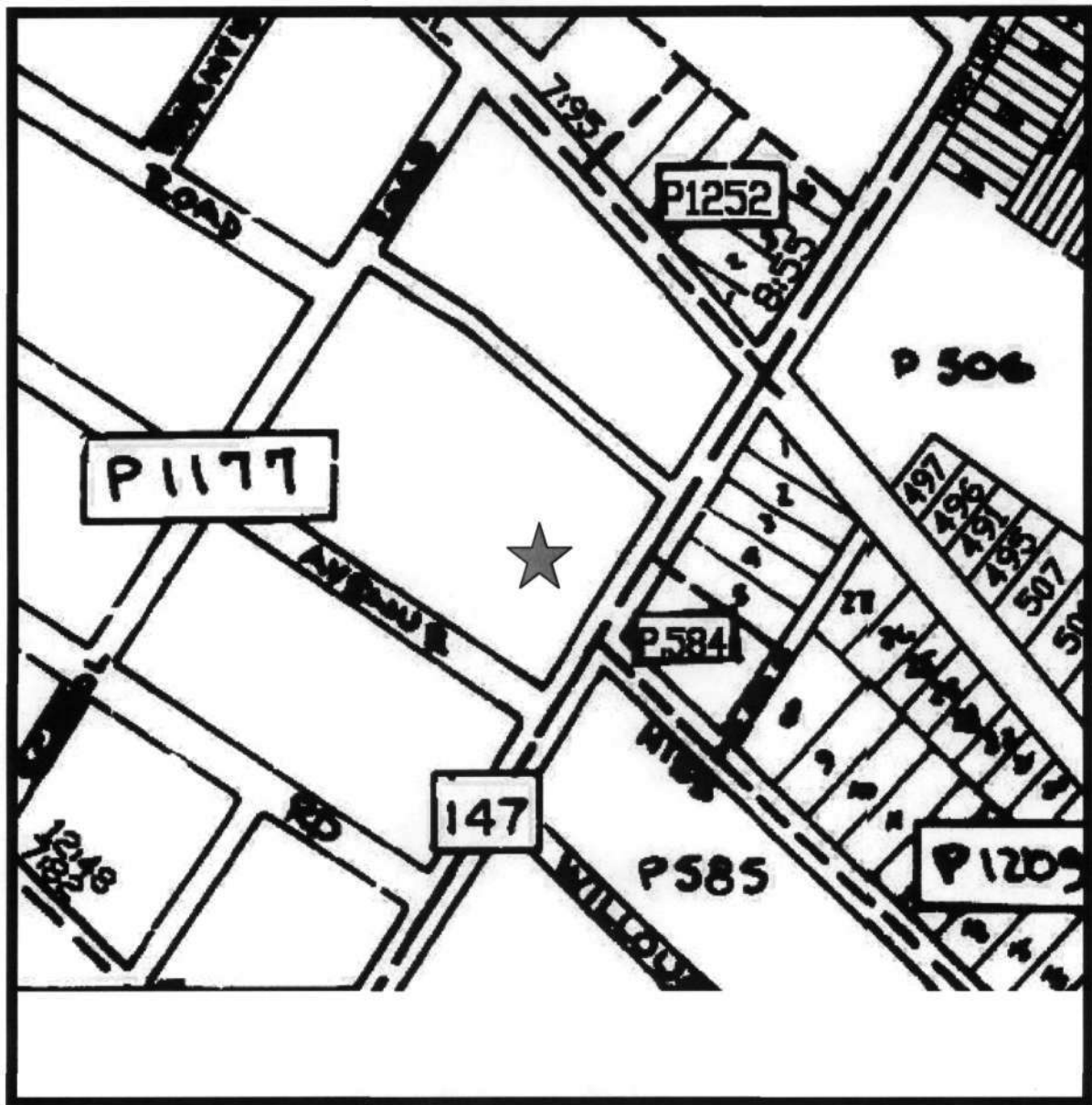
CEMETARY

3-STORY

3-STORY

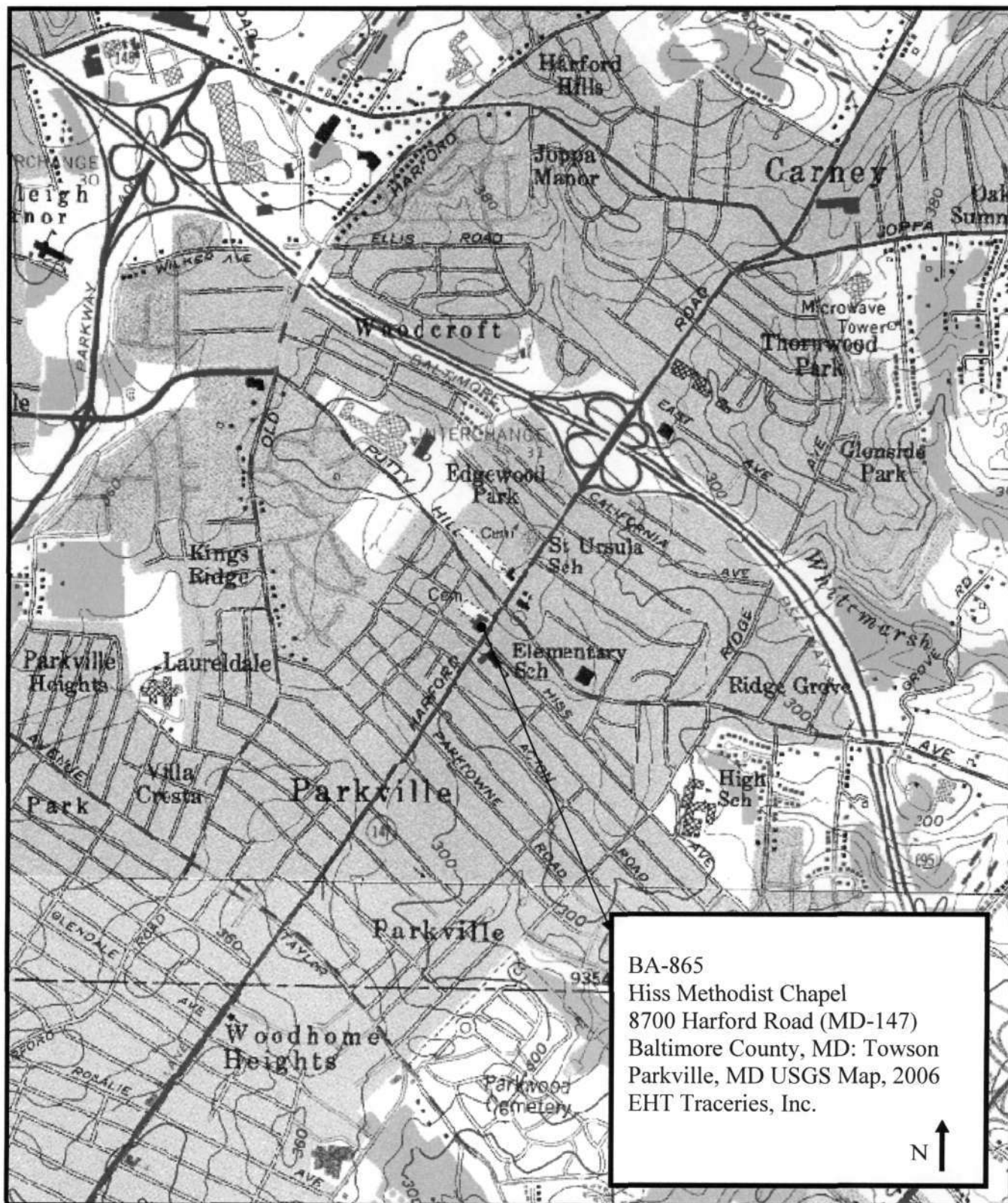


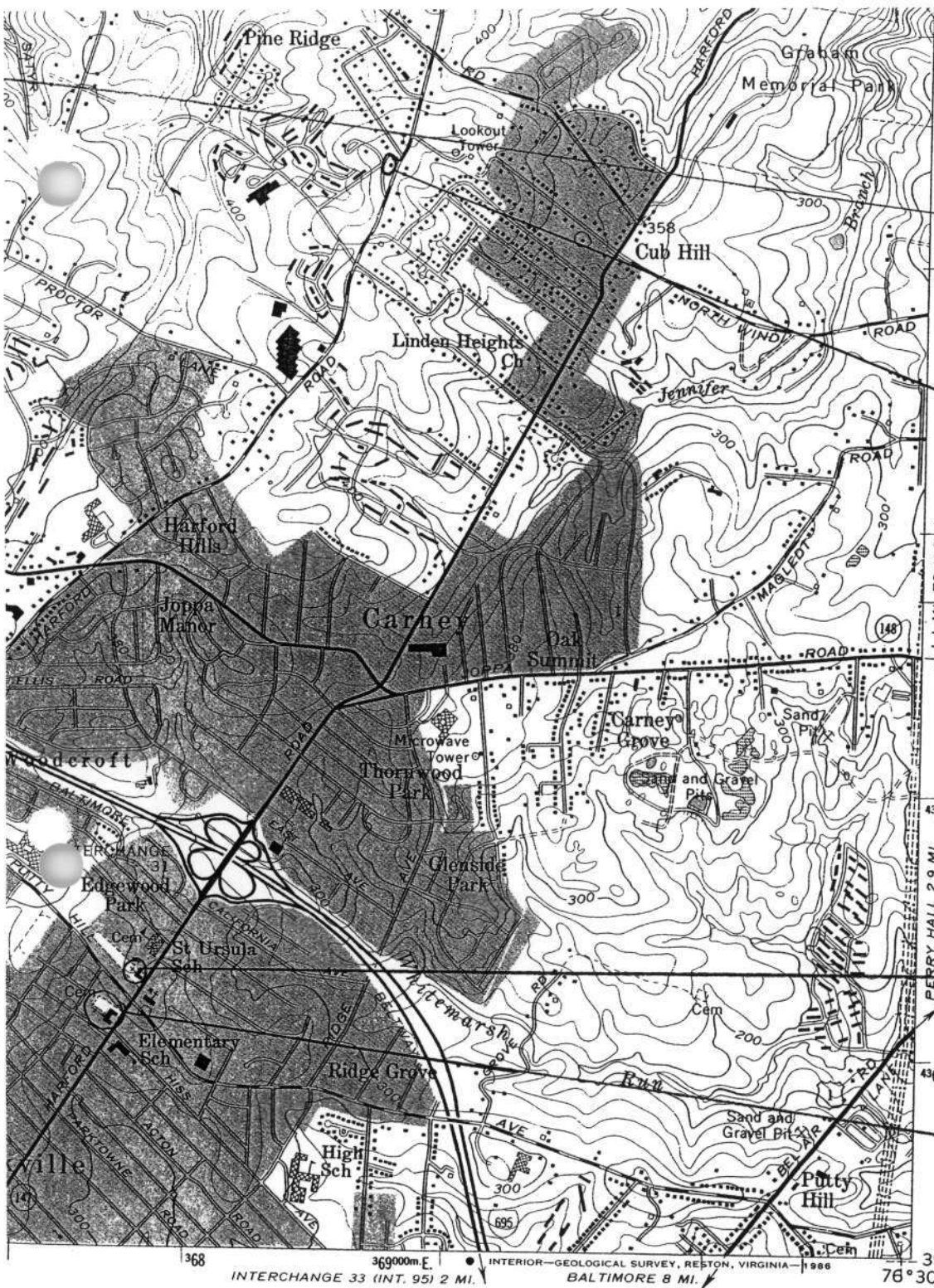
HARFORD ROAD



BA- 865
Hiss Memorial Chapel
8700 Harford Road (MD 147)
Baltimore County, MD: Towson
Parkville, Tax Parcel Map
Map 71, Parcel 1177
EHT Tracerics, Inc. 2006







BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2628
2002 CROMWELL
BRIDGE
ROAD

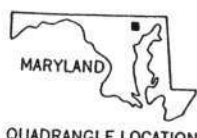
BA-0282
9322 OLD HARFORD ROAD
BALTIMORE, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0866

BA 865
8700 HARFORD ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Heavy-duty | Light-duty |
| Medium-duty | Unimproved dirt |
| Interstate Route | U. S. Route |
| | State Route |



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ce on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
he projection lines 7 meters south and
ters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

TOWSON, MD.

NE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE
39076-D5-TF-024

1957

PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974

DMA 5662 I NE-SERIES V833

MIDDLE RIVER
5762 N SW



BA-865 (1 of 4)

HISS METHODIST CHURCH

8700 HARFORD ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES

APRIL 2006

MD SHPO

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH



BA-865 (2 of 4)

HISS METHODIST CHURCH

8700 HARTFORD ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES

APRIL 2006

MD SHPO

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION OF REAR BUILDING,
LOOKING NORTHEAST



BA-865 (3 of 4)

HISS METHODIST CHURCH

8700 HARTFORD ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES

APRIL 2006

MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION, LOOKING EAST



BA-865 (4 of 4)

HISS METHODIST CHURCH

8700 HARFORD ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

FHT TRACERIES

APRIL 2006

MD SHPO

NORTH EAST ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH



BA-0865

8700 HARFORD ROAD

BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

S CORNER

1 of 4



BA-0865

8700 HARFORD ROAD

BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILER

4/2001

MD-STATE

E CORNER

2 of 4



BA 0865

8700 HARFORD ROAD

BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY MD

TRAILERS

4/2001

MD-SHPD

W CORNER

3 of 4



BA-0865

8700 HARTFORD ROAD

BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERFS

4/2001

MD-SHPD
CEMETERY

4 of 4